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	REC'D 7/27	INFO OTHER Cio-5 USIA-10 HEW-5 LAB-4 Ag-2 Com-8 IN-2 FRB-2 TAR-2 TR-2 Army-4 Navy-3 Air-3 Dakar-1 Accra-1 London-1 Leopoldville-1

SUBJECT: Bi-weekly Review - July 1 through July 15

POLITICAL

Grey Appointed Chief Secretary (UNCLASSIFIED)

To succeed Sir Hugo MARSHALL, who retires on August 2, 1955, the British Secretary of State has approved the appointment of Mr. Ralph F.A.GREY, C.M.G., O.B.E. Mr. Grey, a native of New Zealand, is 45 and has served in Nigeria since 1937. Prior to his temporary departure from Nigeria on home leave at the end of June, he served as Deputy Chief Secretary to the Federal Government.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

In the normal course of events, Chief Secretaries are brought in from other colonies rather than promoted from within the Nigerian service. In this case, however, the choice of Grey appears to be completely warranted. He is alert, forceful, and one of the most stimulating civil servants in the upper echelon of the Nigerian Government. He has always furthered an extremely cordial relationship with officers of the Consulate General and USIS.

Sir Hugo Marshall's departure will mark the loss of another able senior civil servant with long Nigerian experience. It is interesting to note that the London-published fortnightly, West Africa, has suggested that Sir Hugo be recalled to preside over next year's Constitutional Conference.

Appointment of U.K. Commissioner from Northern Region (UNCLASSIFIED)

Malam Mohamed TUKUR Yauri, is scheduled to sail on July 19 to take up the duties of Commissioner for the Northern Region in London. Malam Tukur, the eldest son of the present Emir of Yauri, received his secondary education at Kaduna College and studied in the U.K. from 1948 to 1951. At the time of his appointment as Northern Commissioner he was serving as Clerk to the Northern House of Chiefs.

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COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED)

Now that the North has appointed a Commissioner, all three Regions have official representatives in London. The choice of a Federal Nigerian Commissioner is still hanging fire (See D-2, p.3, 7/1/55).

Nigerian Delegation to MRA Assembly (UNCLASSIFIED)

Approximately 20 Nigerians departed Lagos July 12 to attend a world assembly for Moral Re-Armament at Caux, Switzerland. The delegation, most of whom are Easterners, included eight members of the Regional Houses of Assembly, three representatives from local government bodies, and a group of students from University College, Ibadan.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

A rather bitter commentary on MRA's Nigerian activity was supplied by the Nigerian Tribune, the AG official party paper at Ibadan. The paper devoted a page-long editorial to criticism of MRA, which organization it termed "not exactly normal - in fact bordering on the mysterious". The Tribune felt that most Nigerian delegates were motivated by a "free trip to Switzerland", and censured what it termed the MRA's practice of encouraging its guests to make public confessions of "absolute falsehood" i.e., to confessing imagined sins at MRA's instigation.

Previously the AG had given polite if not enthusiastic support to MRA. The party's angry reaction to the present trip probably stems from the fact that 90% of the delegates are members of the NCNC.

Governor General Tours Northern Region (UNCLASSIFIED)

Newly-arrived Governor General Sir James Robertson is presently on a month's tour of the Northern and Eastern Regions. In a welcoming speech at Kaduna, Northern Premier the Sardauna of Sokoto stated that he regretted his inability to give the Governor General a statement setting forth the Northern Region's position on the constitutional issues to be considered in 1956. He said that the NPC Convention at Maiduguri had decided to defer the issuance of an NPC statement until the issues had been more carefully considered. The preservation of economic and social stability, the Premier emphasized, would be the principal guide in determining the Region's attitude toward constitutional change.

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Northern House to Convene August 8 (UNCLASSIFIED)

It has been announced that the Northern House of Assembly will open on August 8 at Kaduna and that its most important matter for consideration will be Regional implementation of the wage recommendations in the recently published Gorsuch Commission Report (See P.4, D-2). Other bills to be presented include the Criminal Procedure Ordinance, a bill to establish the Regional Supreme Court, and a law governing 1955 operations of the Regional Marketing Board.

Anti-South African Comment (UNCLASSIFIED)

An editorial in the NCNC's West African Pilot scored the Union of South Africa for its reported refusal to issue a passport to a South African student who had applied to attend the 5th International Student Conference at Birmingham, England. The paper declared that the Union "constitutes the greatest threat to our political and economic aspirations and to most countries south or north of the Equator...", and intimated that when Nigeria and the Gold Coast "come of age", a decision will be made as to "whether the Union should be allowed to have its own way every time it feels like doing so."

Rumoured Dissolution of Lagos Town Council (UNCLASSIFIED)

NCNC and independent press organs have hinted that the Federation's Chief Secretary, who is responsible for the administration of Lagos, will order the dissolution of the AG-controlled Lagos Town Council. The Council's activities would be performed by a caretaker committee preparatory to new elections conducted under a universal adult sufferage.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Members of the Council of Ministers with whom the reporting officer has discussed the matter have indicated that there is little likelihood that the Chief Secretary would make such a move. Although some NCNC members of the Council of Ministers, led by Adejoke ADELABU, Federal Minister of Natural Resources and Social Services, are understandably unhappy about the existence of an AG-controlled organization in the Federal capital, the Council has and is performing its function in a reasonably satisfactory manner. Its dissolution presumably would not be ordered until a commission of inquiry had so recommended; no such commission has been established.

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Status of Eastern Regional Town Councils. (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Eastern Regional Government has published a report concerning the future status of the urban councils in the towns of Onitsha, Port Harcourt, Enugu, Aba and Calabar. The Government reported that a Regional local government law, which is expected to come into force soon, will reduce the area responsibilities of the councils. Whereas in the past such councils have been responsible for the administration of suburban and surrounding county communities, in the future the town councils' jurisdiction will be restricted to the central urban areas.

Elections for a new Onitsha council, scheduled for June 10 (See D-171,p.3, 5/6/55), were postponed when friction developed between "Onitsha Ibos" and "non-Onitsha Ibos". The former, who consider themselves to be several social grades above the latter, declared that "non-Onitsha Ibos" should be barred from participating in elections for the new council.

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EDUCATION

Eastern Catholic University (UNCLASSIFIED)

The press has recently carried notices to the effect that Catholic Missions in Nigeria are planning to establish a University in the Eastern Region. The releases stated that a "cordial exchange" of views had taken place between Premier AZIKIWE and Father JORDAN, Educational Adviser to the Mission, who is now visiting the United States with Archbishop Charles HEEREY, Bishop of Onitsha.

COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED)

Catholic secondary education has made great strides during the past few years. According to a local Catholic priest, there are 33 Catholic clergy, primarily Dominican, supervising the education of nearly 4,000 students in primary and secondary schools near Aba and Onitsha.

The Nigerian Mission is reportedly interested in obtaining American Jesuit sponsorship for the proposed University. Although the project is still in the organizational stage, Catholic leaders believe it has a good chance of success.

Because of the relatively high admission standards maintained by the University College at Ibadan, Nigeria has difficulty in furnishing a sufficient number of qualified applicants. With the recent announcement that the Eastern Region plans to establish its own University (see D-177, June 1, 1955, p.5), the Catholic proposal increases the danger that post-secondary institutions may grow beyond the ability of secondary schools to supply qualified students.

Northern Region Bans Communist Teachers (UNCLASSIFIED)

In an announcement similar to that recently published by the Eastern Regional Government (see D-177, p.5), the North has announced that public funds will be withheld from any grant-aided school which "employs an active communist on its staff and does not dismiss him within three months when so informed".

American Deportation of Nigerian Students (UNCLASSIFIED)

Considerable press attention was devoted to the arrival of six Nigerian students at Kano, aboard an aircraft chartered by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. It was reported that the six students, who had suffered mental illnesses while in the United States, were originally sent to the United States under the sponsorship of Nwafor ORIZU's American Council on African Education.

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COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

A Government spokesman informed the Consulate General that all the students have been returned to their home communities in the Eastern Region.

During the period of its operation, the American Council on African Education established the reputation for sponsoring academically unqualified students in the United States and neglecting their subsequent welfare. Largely to correct this situation, the Nigerian Government established the quasi-official Committee for African students in North America (C.A.S.N.A), which is presently operated in Lagos and the three regions.

Seven hundred Nigerians to study in the United Kingdom (UNCLASSIFIED)

A Federal Government release has stated that more than 700 Nigerian students will leave for schools in the United Kingdom this summer. Nigerian students are reported to constitute the largest single group of foreign students now enrolled in Great Britain.

COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Consulate General estimates that there are now approximately 450 Nigerians studying in the United States, the greatest number of whom arrived in the 1948-1950 period. The student visas are presently issued by this office at the rate of approximately 60 per year.

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LABOR

Gorsuch Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

Neither the Federal nor the Regional Governments have yet implemented any of the recommendations contained in the Gorsuch Wage Report (see D-2, p.4). A meeting of the Regional Governments' representatives is scheduled to convene in Lagos in late July, with the Regional and Federal Governments' legislatures taking formal action during their August sessions.

In the meantime, publication of the report has produced a 10-15% rise in the cost of food sold in the local Lagos market places. Certain representatives of the "junior service" labor unions have publicly criticized the report as bestowing greater benefits upon the senior civil servants at the expense of those employed in the junior service.

African Labor Conference (UNCLASSIFIED)

Mr. Francis C. NWOKEDI (see D-105, 1/27/55, p.5), Deputy Commissioner of Labor for Eastern Nigeria, will head a 3-man Nigerian delegation to the African Labor Conference scheduled for Beira, Mozambique, in August. The conference will discuss "labor problems South of the Sahara".

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Considerable friction has arisen as to the selection of the trade union representatives to the Beira Conference. It is rumored that fnu BORAH, Acting General Secretary during the absence of G. C. NZERIBE, has been chosen by the All Nigeria Trade Union Federation (ANTUF). If so, this provides another indication that the left wing Nzeribe faction is in control of ANTUF policy.

Although Nzeribe was expected to return to Nigeria during July, the Action Group's Service has quoted a London report that he is planning "to go and settle as a student in Western Germany". Such a move at this time would seem highly unlikely.

Nigerian Labor Party (UNCLASSIFIED)

Michael IMOUDO, president of ANTUF and the long-time head of the Nigerian Railway Workers' Union, has declared that because "the existing political parties have failed to champion the course of Nigerian workers", he will undertake a country-wide tour to form a labor party.

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CONTENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

An "old-timer" in the Nigerian labor movement, Imoudu has been kicked upstairs in ANTUF and is understandably irritated by the treatment he receives from the younger union officials. His efforts to form a labor party have been greeted in silence by the NCNC and have been discouraged by an editorial in the Action Group's Nigerian Tribune. The Tribune declared that so long as Imoudu was president of ANTUF, any talk of forming a political party for the workers was "nonsense"; "if Mr. Imoudu wants to be a politician, he should not do so under the pretense that he is a trade unionist".

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ECONOMIC

Cocoa Research Institute Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

The quarterly report of the West African Cocoa Research Institute, covering January-March 1955, outlines the Institute's increased activities in investigating insect damage and plant diseases affecting cocoa production in Nigeria and the Gold Coast.

While the report gives no grounds to foresee the early elimination of swollen shoot, black pod, or capsid damage, the Institute has increased the number and acreage of experimental stations and is preparing a number of technical papers on the data it has collected.

West Compensates for Diseased Cocoa Trees. (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Western Regional Department of Agriculture has announced that it has paid out £232,111 during the period that it has administered a compensation program for the eradication of cocoa trees affected by swollen shoot disease. The payment represents the destruction of over 1.7 million trees.

The Department expressed its dissatisfaction in the farmers' utilization of Department-supplied healthy seedlings, which are designed to replace the destroyed trees and are sold at 2d ($.02) each.

Cocoa Crop (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Federal Government has released cumulative cocoa purchases for the 1954/55 marketing season up to June 23:

	Main Crop (tons)	Light Crop
Western Region	64,665	10,977
Eastern Region	866	4
Northern Region	321	44
Southern Cameroons	2,629	3
Total	68,481	11,028

Mbadiwe Discusses Nigerian Communications (UNCLASSIFIED)

At a dinner which he recently gave in London, Federal Minister of Communications and Aviation, K.O. MBADIWE paid high tribute to British technicians and promised that Nigeria would welcome future British assistance in the form of trained technicians.

The Minister

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The Minister stated that "the foundation of any nation's greatness must be rooted in its industrial and technical ability. Politicians can chart the course to a new heaven and a new earth but it remains for the industries, with their army of engineers, scientists and technicians, to translate the dream to a practical reality". Noting that Nigeria has only 12,000 telephones and 10,000 communications and postal workers for a population of 30-odd million, the Minister promised that Nigeria will continue to seek expatriate engineers and technicians during the next 30 years.

Completion of Cross River Bridge (UNCLASSIFIED)

It has been announced that completion of a 650-foot steel bridge across the Eastern Region's Cross River provides the last link in all-season road communication between West and Central-South Africa. Previously, all traffic used a hazardous ferry which ran between Ikom and Mamfe. The bridge has been under construction since December 1953 by a British engineering firm.

British View of Nigerian Investment (UNCLASSIFIED)

Mr. Bernard BRAINE, Conservative M.P. writing in the Investors' Chronicle, has indicated that overseas investors will be hesitant to commit funds in Nigeria until resolution of the country's constitutional arrangements in 1956. Observing that development is financed almost exclusively by public funds, the writer questions whether the government should not take a more active role in promoting private investment. In summary, Mr. Braine feels that Nigeria's natural advantages indicate continued agricultural specialization although he sees some scope for secondary industry.

COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED)

The article's observations are not unlike those contained in Sir Percival GRIFFITHS' recent investment survey (D-183, p. 8, 6/16/55).

Air Route to Cameroons (UNCLASSIFIED)

A twin-engined Viking aircraft providing passenger service between London and Tiko in the Southern Cameroons has recently been inaugarated by West African Airways. The service was established primarily to meet the requirements of the Cameroons Development Corporation.

Edward D. McLaughlin
American Consul General

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